

Studies on Mikania (Compositae)-XVI: Priority of the Name
M. dentata Sprengel over M. ternata (Vell. Conc.) B. L. Robinson

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These notes result from a literature review preliminary to a treatment of the genus for Paraguay. The plant known as Mikania ternata (Vell. Conc.) B. L. Robinson is native to southern and southeastern Brazil, eastern Paraguay, Argentina (Misiones), and central Peru. It is one of the very few species of the genus used as an ornamental (Graf, 1976), probably because of its palmately compound leaves and the tendency of the vegetative parts to be purplish in color. It is sometimes sold commercially under the name Mikania apiifolia DC.

The combination Mikania ternata was proposed by B. L. Robinson in 1911, based on the name Cacalia ternata of Vellozo in Flora Fluminensis (most often cited as published in 1825) because of the apparent priority of that name over either M. dentata Sprengel or M. apiifolia DC. which are both names for the same species. Carauta (1973) has shown that while three fourths of the text of Flora Fluminensis (p. 1-353) was printed in 1825, it remained stored in the "Typographia Nacional" for four years. The sale (distribution) of the incomplete text began in 1829. Under articles 29 (publication is effected by distribution of printed matter) and 30 (effective date of publication is the date on which the printed matter became available) of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, the effective date of Vellozo's species described in the first unfinished edition is between 7 September and 28 November 1829 (Carauta, 1973).

It is now clear that the name Mikania dentata Sprengel, published in 1826, has priority over [the basionym] Cacalia ternata, and must be considered as the correct name for the plant currently known as Mikania ternata. Complete and correct nomenclature for this species is as follows:

Mikania dentata Sprengel, Syst. Veg. Fl. Peruv. Chil. 3: 422.
1826, not to be confused with Mikania dentata

G. M. Barroso, Arch. Jard. Bot. Rio de Janeiro 16:
275. 1959, nom. illeg.

Cacalia ternata Vell. Conc., Fl. Flum. 315. 1825 [1829].

Cacalia septemnata Vell. Conc., Fl. Flum. 316. 1825
[1829].

Mikania apiifolia DC., Prodr. 5: 202. 1836.

Mikania ternata (Vell. Conc.) B. L. Robinson, Proc. Amer.
Acad. Arts. 47: 198. 1911.

Appreciation is expressed to L. Ramella, coordinator for
"Flora del Paraguay" for pointing out the dates of publication of
Flora Fluminensis.

Literature Cited

Carauta, J.P.P. 1973. The text of flora fluminensis and its
effective date of publication. Taxon 22: 281-284.

Graf, A.B. 1976. Exotica 3. Roehrs Co., Inc. East Rutherford, NJ.
1837 pp.